

SAN MANUEL

BAND OF MISSION INDIANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SAN MANUEL HOLDS FOURTH ANNUAL PHILANTHROPY AWARDS LUNCHEON

Event Drew Charities Together to Honor Four Non-Profits Serving Indian Country and Southern California with Tribe's Yawa' Award



Representatives of 2012 Yawa' Award Recipient Groups Stand with San Manuel Tribal Secretary for Group Photo

San Bernardino, Calif. March 27, 2012—The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians held its fourth annual Forging Hope Luncheon at the National Orange Show in San Bernardino today. The luncheon brought together non-profit groups from the greater philanthropic community for an

awards ceremony at which the San Manuel's signature Yawa' Award was presented to four charities that have made positive and meaningful impacts in the region and across the nation.

Yawa' is a word and concept in the Tribe's native Serrano Language that calls for one to act on their beliefs.

"Four years ago, the people of San Manuel, the embarked on a quest to recognize the good work of non-profit groups and community organizations that perform selfless acts of service to our communities," said Chairman James C. Ramos M.B.A. "These past few years have presented incredible challenges for the entire country. At the same time, it has presented opportunities for us to implement the principle of Yawa' and make it possible for us to survive the hardships and through sacrifices and acting on our beliefs that better days were not far in the distance."

Seen as a milestone in the Tribe's philanthropic giving, the Yawa' award is given in four categories that represent the focus areas in which San Manuel seeks make a positive difference in the lives of others. Those recipient charities that embody the concept of Yawa' are models of excellence in the program areas of education, health, economic development and special projects include:

American Indian Science & Engineering Society (Education)

The American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) mission is to substantially increase the representation of American Indians and Alaska Natives in science, engineering and related technology disciplines (STEM). AISES works to promote, initiate, and provide educational services for American Indian and Alaska Native pre-college, college, and graduate students in STEM. AISES also supports early, mid, and executive-level professionals in STEM through professional development, mentoring, networking, community service, and awards programs and initiatives. AISES is the only professional society established by and for American Indian and Alaska Natives that specifically emphasizes lifelong learning and educational achievement by utilizing cultural aspects with STEM.

American Diabetes Association (Health)

Life free of diabetes and all of its burdens – this is the vision of the American Diabetes Association (ADA). As an organization, the ADA is committed to helping children and adults with all types of diabetes, as well as those at risk. But there is much work to be done. Locally, diabetes is growing at alarming rates and shortening the lifespan of our community. The "Awakening the Spirit" is ADA's diabetes awareness, prevention and management program for Native Americans. Launched in 2011 with the support of San Manuel, ADA is partnering, collaborating and spearheading efforts to educate, inspire, and reintroduce life free of diabetes in our community.

Family Service Association of Redlands (Economic Development)

Family Service has assisted low-income and homeless families living in the East Valley for 114 years. Family Service provides food, clothing, shelter, employment assistance and educational programs in a dynamic case-management environment. Primarily serving families with children, Family Service strives to promote family stability. Nearly half of those helped are children. The organization's motto, "a hand up, not hand out" reflects its emphasis on alleviating the underlying causes of poverty.

San Bernardino Symphony Association (Special Projects)

The mission of the San Bernardino Symphony is to foster a love of music, excite the spirit, and enrich our diverse community and region through live orchestra performances and music education.

Each year the Symphony impacts the lives of over 15,000 students in our region through music education and outreach programs to include an Annual Children's Concert, Music in the Schools, Musicians in the Schools, and the Sensational Strings Youth Outreach.

San Manuel has contributed some \$60 million to charities since 2001. Through partnerships with charitable organizations and community groups San Manuel honors the ancestral Serrano value of sharing resources with others.

About the 4th Annual Forging Hope Luncheon

The Forging Hope Luncheon was established by the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians to recognize outstanding groups within the Inland Empire that are producing deep and significant impacts within the community. The Tribe selects organizations within their four philanthropic focus areas – economic development, health, education, and special projects - and recognizes them with the Yawa' Award. This award is a special recognition to those non-profit, charitable organizations that embody the Serrano concept of Yawa' and demonstrate their beliefs through their actions. Attendance to the annual event is by invitation only.

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

The San Manuel Band of Serrano Mission Indians is a federally recognized American Indian tribe located near the city of Highland, Calif. The Serrano Indians are the indigenous people of the San Bernardino highlands, passes, valleys and mountains who share a common language and culture. The San Manuel reservation was established in 1891 and recognized as a sovereign nation with the right of self-government. Since time immemorial, the San Manuel tribal community has endured change and hardship. Amidst these challenges the tribe continued to maintain its unique form of governance. Like other governments it seeks to provide a better quality of life for its citizens by building infrastructure, maintaining civil services and promoting social, economic and cultural development. Today San Manuel tribal government oversees many governmental units including the departments of fire, public safety, education and environment.

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